

**Iowa Department of Natural Resources
Environmental Protection Commission**

ITEM

5

DECISION

TOPIC

**Contract – Iowa Department of Economic Development – Water
Quality Advocate**

The Department requests Commission approval of a contract in the amount of \$75,000 with the Iowa Department of Economic Development (IDED) for the Water Quality Advocate position.

In 2006 the General Assembly provided funding to IDED to provide a non-regulatory advocate for water quality outreach and assistance to regulated entities. In 2007 funding for this effort was given to the Department. The Department is recommending continuation of the effort with this contract using a portion of the NPDES general fund appropriation.

The contract period will be from August 7, 2007, to June 30, 2008.

For this contract period the focus of the Water Quality Advocate will be to assist small communities with understanding and complying with their wastewater requirements including applying for their National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System permits and to lead efforts to assist unsewered communities address their wastewater issues.

Wayne Gieselman
Administrator
Environmental Services Division

July 9, 2007

Scope of work

For this contract period the focus of the Water Quality Advocate will be to assist small communities with understanding and complying with their wastewater requirements including applying for their National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System permits and to lead efforts to assist unsewered communities address their wastewater issues.

PROVIDE INFORMATION AND RESOURCES TO ENTITIES NEEDING AN NPDES PERMIT

- Revise DNR's NPDES web pages by working with NPDES staff for technical accuracy, by working with DNR's communication's bureau, and by working with regulated communities as well as representatives from the public
- Link DNR's NPDES web pages to IDED's appropriate web pages
- Promote DNR's NPDES web pages to the public and regulated communities
- Identify and develop brochures and checklists that may help the public and regulated communities to better understand NPDES program, and water quality issues in general
- Accurate and prompt information about WQS and WQS changes (including policies and policy changes)
- Schedule and hold workshops around the state to teach applicants how to apply for NPDES permit renewals online
- Schedule and hold informational meetings to let regulated communities and other interested parties know about DNR's NPDES permitting process

Serve as a liaison between permitting staff and entities needing an NPDES permit

- Use DNR's permitting database (e.g. NPDS database) to identify target facilities that maybe in need of assistance
- Schedule and hold small workshops (1 to 4 participants) around the state to work through the permit applications with these targeted facilities
- Answer questions from permit applicants and get permit writers' inputs if needed
- Conduct in-field permit application verification at the conclusion of workshops
- Follow up, at the request of permit writers, with specific permit applicants to secure the on-time submission of completed applications
- Get feedback from workshop attendees on effectiveness of this effort
- Seek workshop attendees' inputs on how to improve this effort and then implement the changes at the subsequent workshops
- Bring observations and suggestions to DNP permit writers' attention

Serve as the liaison between IDNR and IDED and stakeholders for unsewered communities.

- Provide a report to stakeholders that updates them on progress/achievements since the Strategic Action Plan was written. Use this as a tool to re-energize stakeholders.

- Coordinate revision and implementation with stakeholders of the Iowa Strategic Plan for Unsewered Communities
- Coordinate with stakeholders by holding periodic meetings and circulating status reports.
- Coordinate public input on the unsewered communities priority project list and recommend any changes to the list
- Lead the effort to get the directors of DNR, DED and the Iowa USDA Rural Development to accept the priority list for their funding of projects
- Work with stakeholders to develop a list of tasks on unsewered communities that stakeholders are willing to carry out and facilitate their efforts
- Lead effort to expand interest and support for the unsewered communities plan with interest groups